

233 South Wacker Drive Suite 800, Sears Tower Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice) 312-454-0411 (fax) www.chicagoareaplanning.org

# Draft Minutes Environment and Natural Resources Committee

January 9, 2008—9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Joe Schuessler (*alternate*) – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of

Greater Chicago, Stacy Meyers-Glen (*alternate*) -Openlands, Melinda Pruett-Jones – Chicago Wilderness, Mr. Pete Harmet – IDOT District One, Kama Dobbs- DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Sean

Wiedel (alternate)- Lake County SMC, Ingrid Ruttendjie- Fox

Waterway Agency, Marty Jaffe & Moira Zellner (*alternate*) – University of Illinois, Chris Choi (*alternate*) – USEPA, Mike Rogers – IEPA, Karla

Kramer – USFWS, Ken Anderson – Kane County, Kate Agasie (alternate), Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater

**Districts** 

Staff Present: Kerry Leigh, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Lori Heringa, Kristin Heery, Ross

Patronsky

Others Present: Paul Heltne and Anja Claus, Center for Humans and Nature

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Vice – Chair Ingrid Ruttendjie called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## 2.0 Agenda Changes & Announcements

Kerry updated the committee on the December 11<sup>th</sup> Summit on Climate Change and said that the summit report would be coming out in February, and that the audio and powerpoint presentations are on the CMAP website. She also notified the committee of an upcoming brown bag presentation on 'Growing Water" in Chicago as a unique vision that integrates water and transportation. Kerry will send the committee more information. It will be on Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> at noon here at CMAP. Item 5.0 on the agenda occurred prior to Item 4.0.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes- November 7, 2007

MOTION: Kate Agasie motioned and Stacy Meyers-Glen seconded to approve the November 7, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

## **4.0 Comprehensive Regional Plan – CMAP staff**

ACTION REQUESTED: Information & Discussion Strategy Research – Bob Dean

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes-January 9th, 2008** 

Bob briefly described the Strategy Research Process and the process of choosing an alternative preferred scenario. Scenarios can be a combination of different actions from a list of strategies on our short list. The first thing to understand is what the issue is for each strategy, and then what kind of recommendations our plan could make. Then we would conduct a number of analyses to determine what would happen if we tried to implement the recommendations.

Bob asked the committee if anyone had a particular interest in any of the strategies as staff needs help in researching these topics, especially what work has been done so we are not missing or repeating anything.

Ingrid said that there is a huge gap in lakes and rivers that had been mentioned before. Bob said we would change land preservation to land and water preservation and management.

Ken said that Kane County has a web site with a suite of BMP's up and that the Blackberry Creek alternative analysis has an economic analysis included that we would find helpful.

Melinda said that Chicago Wilderness will help on Ecosystem restoration and Land and Water preservation and management. She asked if Greenways was included and Bob said that is in the preservation of land as linear corridors. Melinda wanted to stress the benefits to people and wildlife, particularly the north-south corridors which will be gaining in importance as climate changes.

Stacy asked if we have a category for recreation. Recreational use is a good idea on many fronts, including land preservation efforts, and the Chicago waterway system, for example. Karla asked about water quality and Bob responded that we're looking at actions vs. indicators. Water quality is not an action, it would be an indicator. These are the things we are looking at to see their impact on water quality, for example.

Ingrid said that the Fox Waterway Agency will help, and Stacy said she will speak to Lenore about the degree of help Openlands can give to this process.

Bob said staff is also investigating food policy including locally grown foods and fresh food access issues for communities. Kate suggested talking to the Chicago Community Trust and Paul Heltne suggested Open Market, the City Dept. of the Environment is searching for ways to encourage local markets. Melinda said there were people at the summit involved in the food policy issue.

The committee asked if they could have the contact information for the other committee members and Kerry agreed to send that out to each committee member.

# **5.0 Implementing the Green Infrastructure Vision** – Jesse Elam, CMAP staff ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

Jesse explained that subsequent to last meetings November workshop on the Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) he and Randy attended the Chicago Wilderness (CW) Executive meeting to discuss how CMAP was going to be moving forward with the GIV. Randy indicated that it will be a major part of CMAP's regional comprehensive plan, and in response, CW appointed a technical team to assist CMAP with doing that. The team consists of the following:

Dennis Dreher Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.

Dave Bier Futurity, Inc. Lenore Beyer-Clow Openlands

Steve Byers / Jeff Mengler Rep. Science / Natural Rrcs Mgmt Team - State John Oldenburg Rep. Science / Natural Rrcs Mgmt Team - Local

Jim van der Kloot Rep. Sustainability Team

CW said that they are also reviewing the current GIV boundaries in view of the fact that the Chicago Wilderness boundary had changed since the GIV was done. They will also be reviewing the recommendations to ascertain if they are still relevant.

Jesse said that the specific definition of Green Infrastructure in the Vision is about regional connectivity of natural areas and that this is also open to review and comment. Sean Wiedel from Lake County SMC brought a definition of Green Infrastructure that the Lake County SMC board adopted in December. The definition includes not only the regional concept of the interconnected network which will assist them with their watershed planning, but also includes the local scale smaller size parcels where best management practices can be implemented. This definition was compiled from many different sources including the USEPA, Center for Watershed Protection and Center for Neighborhood Technology. SMC encourages CMAP to use this broader definition for green infrastructure.

Karla liked the idea as there is a need to provide for adequate stormwater and air quality concerns on a regional level as natural areas will degrade otherwise. Melinda said that if the GIV is going to the local level this is important and valuable for the technical team and suggested that they come back with a revised definition to the committee, and she would like to include Lake County SMC on the CW technical team.

Melinda said that at the last E&NR committee meeting the discussion centered on what the green polygons meant. The intent was not to make everything open space, but to include a lot of different opportunities including conservation design, for example. Sean said that SMC was concerned, as when the original inventory was done for the GIV, many small scale opportunities were missed. Sean mentioned that bigger landowners (such as forest preserve districts) already know where the remaining, large high quality parcels are located. Sean stressed the importance of identifying the smaller sites that already provide or could provide water quality, flood damage reduction and/or habitat values. This critical information needs

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes- January 9th, 2008** 

to be considered by local decision makers by municipalities, park districts and others when they conduct business. Therefore Lake County SMC is suggesting looking at both scales to avoid those gaps.

Jesse said that it would be best if the unique elements of the GIV were teased out so it would not simply be a redux of other strategies being investigated for the comprehensive plan. Sean said that the missing link is looking at the smaller parcels and liked the idea of working with the CW technical team to bring a new definition to the E & NR committee. Jesse stressed the need to operationalize the definition for the strategy modeling.

Karla added that although a lot has been done on BMP's their agency still gets a lot of designs to review that do not incorporate BMP's. If the comprehensive plan is a leadership document, it might be a way to pull it all together to say what the region stands for.

Melinda reiterated that the CW technical team will work with Jesse on what uniquely fits the planning process but noted that the CW process for implementation will also be moving forward simultaneously, and that complete integration conceptually of the two processes is needed.

Jesse said he would come back with an update to the committee in a couple of months.

## **6.0 Air Quality Snapshot** – Ross Patronsky, CMAP staff

ACTION REQUESTED: Information & Discussion

Ross noted that this committee is the home committee for this issue, and that he will then take it to the other committees after input here. He explained that this is the 'classical' air quality that is being addressed here, and not green house gasses (ghg). Ghg's are covered in the sustainability section. Ross took the committee through the snapshot outline and described the process. The PowerPoint with the outline is on the web on the committee page.

Traditional air quality is heavily regulated, but we want to go beyond the regulations and identify what we as a region can do to improve air quality beyond what is simply required. Ross is looking for ideas from the committee. Paul Heltne noted that the EPA will regulate CO<sub>2</sub> now and that climate change should be factored in. Ross reiterated that CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change will be under sustainability.

Mike Rogers added that CO<sub>2</sub> is a global issue and a national problem and USEPA is in the process of proposing vehicle standards for fuel efficiency as soon as within the next year. Regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> may not follow the long standard process used to regulate criteria pollutants.

Bob said that ghg emissions are being looked at in the comprehensive planning process and will be one of the indicators. Staff and consultants are currently doing some research but not through this report.

Marty added that wastewater sewer extensions should be looked at in terms of land use impacts and mobile source emissions. Stacy added that the clean water act looks specifically at water resources and doesn't include an air component. Joe added that waste water treatment plants have an air permit. Marty added that secondary impacts should be addressed in FPA reviews. Stacy said that she can see the cross over and the federal government is moving forward with these ideas.

Kate said that it is a good idea to keep CO<sub>2</sub> in sustainability and doesn't want it to overwhelm the issues addressed in the current snapshot. Moira added that we need to also look at other drivers of land use change, for example local policies' impacts on driving patterns.

Marty asked how the Clean Air Act was considered in transportation planning. Were plans evaluated on project by project basis? Ross answered that plans and programs were analyzed for their air quality impacts in the aggregate, not on an individual project basis.

Stacy said that project-level NEPA documents include safety analyses of, for example, accidents, and may reference air quality improvements, but do not estimate health impacts. Pete said that in NEPA documents air quality modeling is based on compliance, not health. Ross added that modeling of individual projects is unlikely to be productive since the impacts of an individual project are very small. However, the overall plan or TIP could be evaluated for health impacts.

Bob said that we are looking at public health indicators separately and Marty added that he wants CMAP to address these issues. Joe added that we should also be addressing noise pollution and Kerry added that it might be a good idea to look at light pollution too.

Ross asked for feedback on the draft outline by the end of the month. The final document will be out in July, and the committee will have time to comment on the draft before then.

### 7.0 Discussion Items for Future Meetings

- Discussion with the modeling team
- Air Quality Ongoing
- Green Infrastructure Vision Ongoing
- Developments of Regional Importance
- FPA Process February
- Update on Climate Change February
- Update on Water Resources Development Act
- Update on Water Supply Planning Group
- Lake Michigan Issues
- Regional Greenways & Trails Plan
- Status of Use Attainability Analysis
- Discussion of Indicators

## 9.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

## 10.0 Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

## 11.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Pete Harmet seconded by Stacy Meyers-Glen. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry leigh

Kerry Leigh Staff Liaison